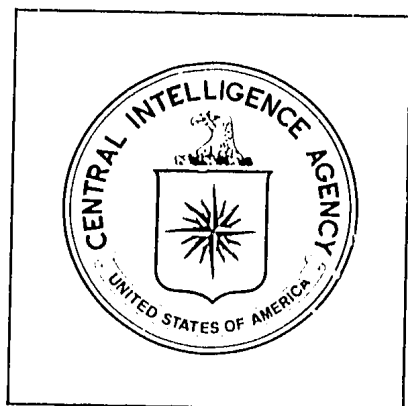


Approved For Release 1  
2009/01/09 :  
CIA-RDP86T00608R000500010

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## STAFF NOTES:

# Western Europe Canada International Organizations

State Dept. review  
completed

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WESTERN EUROPE — CANADA — INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Mitterrand Pessimistic About the French Left Alliance

French Socialist leader Francois Mitterrand is pessimistic about the future of his party's alliance with the French Communist Party.

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He believes the Communists are out to destroy him politically because of the threat he represents to their dominance of the Left.

Mitterrand may be right. The major underlying factor in the continuing dispute between the two parties is the Communists' fear that they are losing strength to the Socialists. Mitterrand is widely credited with the remarkable success of the "new" Socialist Party that he forged out of several listless factions in 1971. During the seven months following the presidential election of May 1974, membership in the Socialist Party jumped from 90,000 to about 150,000 and opinion polls indicate that it may now be the most popular party in France. Much of the party's success can be attributed to Mitterrand's skill in presenting the image of a united party sufficiently to the left to attract a wide socialist constituency, yet moderate enough to appear a credible deterrent to strong Communist influence. In fact, the party is split into at least three bickering factions and without Mitterrand at the helm it would probably lose strength and cohesiveness.

Conflicting views on Portugal have further widened the cracks that appeared in the Socialist-Communist coalition last fall, once again exposing

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fundamental differences between the two parties and bringing into question the durability of their alliance. In late July Mitterrand reportedly was giving serious consideration to the possibility of the alliance breaking up. The Socialist leader emphasized, however, that it would be up to the Communists to precipitate the break and, on balance, he did not think the Communists could afford to destroy the alliance.

Mitterrand concluded that the coalition will likely hold together at least until the legislative election scheduled for 1978. It will be an obviously shaky alliance, however, and its popular appeal will be reduced if public disputes continue.

Again, Mitterrand is probably right. The Communists seem bent on maintaining their current hard line against the Socialists, but are unlikely to go so far as to bring down the alliance before the next legislative election.

25X1      The election could be a watershed for the French Left. If the Socialists continue to score impressive gains, they may emerge as the largest single party in the country. This would expose them to the temptation of joining or even forming a center-left government coalition--an abiding Communist fear. 25X1

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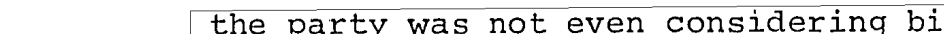


European Socialists Coordinate Help to  
Portuguese Socialist Party

The working group of West European Socialist leaders--set up last month to devise ways to support non-Communist forces in Portugal--held their first meeting in London last week and pledged further financial aid and solidarity.

The British Labor party secretary general told the US embassy in London that Portuguese Socialist chief Soares made a successful bid at the London meeting for continuing financial support from his socialist colleagues. According to the Labor Party official, the international secretary of the Dutch Labor Party is the key figure in channeling funds to Soares.

One immediate result of the London talks has been a marked change in the French Socialists' attitude toward helping the Portuguese Socialists.

 the party was not even considering bilateral aid as of mid-August; now, however, it intends to begin an extensive program of assistance.

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In addition to extending financial aid, the participants agreed to support the democratic forces by encouraging exchanges of visits between committee members and key Portuguese political and military leaders and by undertaking to organize "solidarity campaigns" in European countries.

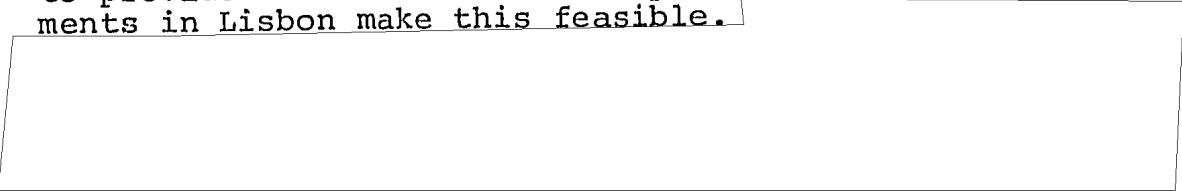
Despite Swedish Prime Minister Palme's view that no strings should be attached to aid offers to Portugal itself, it was decided to withhold such aid until there is clearer evidence that Lisbon is moving toward a democratic political

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system. This policy is in line with that of the EC which initiated contingency planning last week to provide economic assistance promptly once developments in Lisbon make this feasible.



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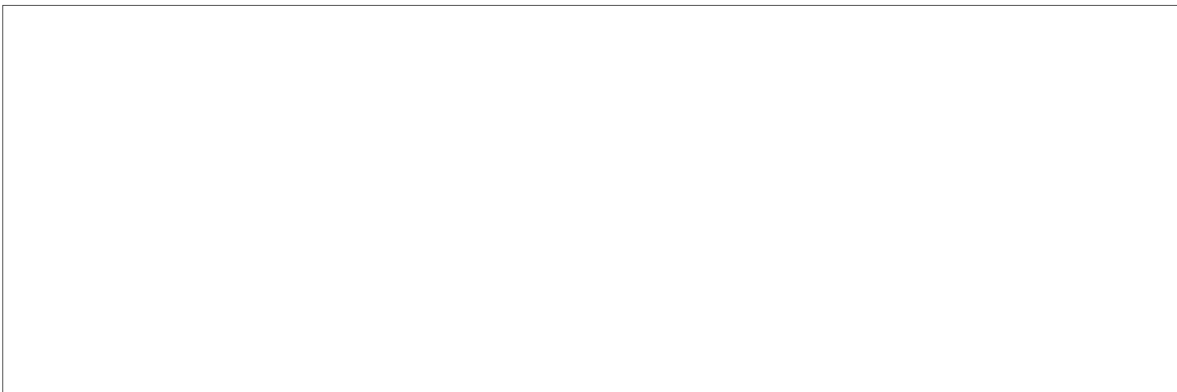
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Israeli Exclusion Issue Continues to Trouble  
UNESCO

Little progress is likely to be made toward improving Israel's relations with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) when the executive board of that organization meets next week. Both the Israelis and the UNESCO leadership are opposing moves--primarily undertaken by the US--to integrate Israel into a UNESCO regional group and thus overturn last year's decision by the general conference to exclude Israel from regional group membership.

Despite previous indications that he would support Israel's attendance at an October European regional group meeting, UNESCO's Director General recently reversed this commitment and said that he will not invite Israel to attend the meeting. The Director-General--a Senegalese Moslem--argued that Israel has shown no signs of increasing its cooperation with his organization. The Director also stated that it was largely due to his influence that the Israeli expulsion resolution was moderated at the OAU Kampala meeting, and he considers this a much more significant accomplishment.



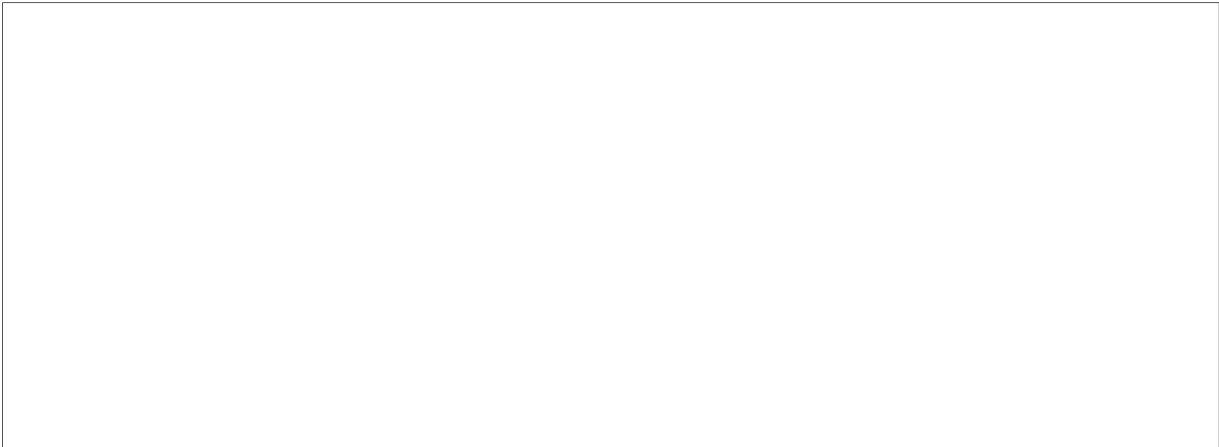
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The continuing stalemate on this issue raises doubts about the UN agency's future. The expulsion issue has led the US Congress to suspend the US' annual contribution, which provides for about 25 percent of UNESCO's budget, and the Arab states who mounted the anti-Israel campaign last year have not come through with sufficient loans to make up for UNESCO's deficit. Some UNESCO officials are now discussing an extra-ordinary session of the general conference to try to solve the problem.

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